MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : May I know the nature of the work transacted by Mr. Balakrishna Rao during this period?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The routine work of the office.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Was any appointment made by him?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I do not think any appointment was made by him.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Was any estimate sanctioned by him?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : No, he cannot sanction estimates. That is clear from the answer.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*) : Was it as an attractive person then that he was put in there?

Proposed Appointment of a Foreigner as Chief Engineer.

285. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government are attempting to secure an Engineer from outside the service and appoint him as Chief Engineer ;

(*b*) whether they are aware that there are competent European and Indian Engineers in the service with long experience in the department ;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, why promotion should not be given to them in the order of their seniority ;

(*d*) whether they are aware that the pay of an Executive Engineer in British India is higher than that of the Chief Engineer in Travancore ; and

(*e*) whether they are aware that there has been a sustained complaint on the part of the people against giving officers borrowed from British India and elsewhere higher pay and emoluments than are warranted by the conditions of this State?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) There are European and Indian Engineers in the service with long experience in the department. The Government do not propose to disclose their opinion regarding the competency or otherwise of their officers.

(*d*) That is not so in all cases.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

Travelling Allowance to Division Assistants.

286. **MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the amount allotted to each Revenue Division under "Travelling Allowance to officers;"

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